

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 H-02 SSM-05 SS-15  
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /074 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN:DP

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

S/PRS - MR. BROWN (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER

-----182204 101630 /63

O R 182135Z FEB 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 038029 TOSEC 020123

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE ANSWER ON WASHINGTON POST STORY  
REGARDING KING HUSSEIN

1. FOLLOWING IS THE ANSWER GIVEN BY WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY JODY POWELL AT DAILY BRIEFING FEBRUARY 18 TO QUESTION ON WASHINGTON POST STORY ABOUT KING HUSSEIN. THIS IS AS HEARD (TRANSCRIPT WILL BE SENT WHEN AVAILABLE):  
QUOTE. IT IS THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY NOT TO COMMENT -- EITHER TO CONFIRM OR DENY -- ON ANY STORIES CONCERNING ALLEGED COVERT ACTIVITIES. BY DEFINITION ANY COMMENT WOULD BE A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS SINCE THE OPERATION IN QUESTION WOULD NO LONGER BE COVERT.

I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT ALMOST FROM THE FIRST DAY OF THE ADMINISTRATION, SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, UNCLASSIFIED

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CLUDING THE JOINT CHIEFS, HAVE ENGAGED THROUGH THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, IN AN INTENSIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF ALL SENSITIVE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES. THIS REVIEW IS NEARING COMPLETION AND, ON THE BASIS OF ITS FINDINGS, THE PRESIDENT WILL MAKE BASIC DECISIONS CONCERN-

ING THE FUTURE OF SUCH ACTIVITIES. THE PURPOSE OF THESE ACTIVITIES, OF COURSE, IS TO PROTECT THE SECURITY OF OUR COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE REVIEW IS TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT ALL ACTIVITIES ARE PROPER, TO ENSURE FULL COMPLIANCE WITH OVERSIGHT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY LAW, AND TO MAKE SURE THAT WHAT CAN BE DONE OPENLY IS NOT DONE SECRETLY.

I WOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT KING HUSSEIN IS AN OUTSTANDING NATIONAL LEADER, AND THAT HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT HAVE PLAYED A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN REDUCING TENSIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. END QUOTE.

2. UNDER INTENSIVE AND EXTENDED QUESTIONING THE PRESS SECRETARY MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT BEYOND THAT STATEMENT. HE DID SAY THAT HIS STATEMENT WAS THE PRODUCT OF THE THINKING OF A NUMBER OF PEOPLE, AND HAD BEEN REVIEWED BY THE PRESIDENT. HE AFFIRMED THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAD READ THE WASHINGTON POST STORY BEFORE SEEING KING HUSSEIN. HE SAID THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND KING HUSSEIN HAD NOT BEEN IN CONTACT REGARDING THE STORY.

HARTMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, (POWELL, JODY), (HUSSEIN, I)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009